



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,207	09/28/2001	Anthony William Brassington	U 013543-1	8406
140	7590	12/15/2003	EXAMINER	
LADAS & PARRY 26 WEST 61ST STREET NEW YORK, NY 10023			CASTELLANO, STEPHEN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	
			DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,207

Applicant(s)

BRASSINGTON, ANTHONY
WILLIAM

Examiner

Stephen J. Castellano

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 3727

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over British reference No. ('363) to Jorger (Jorger) in view of WIPO reference No. ('401) to Mader (Mader), Teeter and Bonallack et al. (Bonallack).

For claims 24 and 26, Jorger discloses a top rail (1) installed on an insulated double-skinned freight container having foam insulation between the skins, the rail forming a junction between an outer skin of a side wall and an outer skin of a roof panel, the rail comprising a first vertical web portion attached to the side wall outer skin, an inwardly inclined second web at a first obtuse angle of between 140-160 degrees to the first web portion and a third horizontal web portion attached to the roof panel outer skin, the rail adapted to be welded, the third web being inwardly inclined at a second obtuse angle to the second web portion. Jorger discloses the invention except for the inwardly extending return portion at an edge of the third web portion remote from the second web portion embedded in the foam insulation. Mader teaches a corner or edge rail (1346) in Fig. 13, this rail has first, second and third web portions arranged at a similar obtuse angle configuration, the first and third web portions include portion (1342) return portions (1344) are connected to the first and third web portions at an edge of the first and third web portions remote from the second web portion. Teeter teaches a configuration in Fig. 8 where a corner piece 66 provides embedded flange portions 67, 68 as is best understood by referring to column 8, lines 44-49 which states that the space 70 confined by the corner piece

Art Unit: 3727

may be filled with insulating material. Bonallack teaches a horizontal extruded hollow section 23 has shown in fig. 1 with return portions embedded in the foam insulations of 6 and 19. It would have been obvious to add a return portions to the third web portion and the first web portion to add further strength and stability to the rail to resist impact and wear of the rail.

For claim 25, it would have been obvious to add an inwardly extending further web portion by adding portions 1342 and 1344 to the first web portion, portion 1344 acting as the further web portion perpendicular to the first web portion to add further strength and stability to the rail to resist impact and wear of the rail.

For claim 26, if it should be deemed that the obtuse angle is not between 140-160 degrees, the angle is sufficiently close. There is no criticality placed on this specific range of the angle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the angle to be between 140 – 160 degrees in order to provide a smooth transition from the first web to the second web on the side wall to prevent sharpness at this juncture to prevent damage to adjacent containers.

For claims 27 and 30, longitudinal beads and notches are shown by Fig. 1, 2, 10 and 11 of Mader. It would have been obvious to provide longitudinal beads and notches to provide a reinforcement for the rail and to provide an anchoring element for insulation situated between the rail and the inner wall of the container.

For claim 31, the third web extends in the foam insulation as shown in Fig. 2, 2a, 4, 4a, 5, 5a and 6.

For claim 28, aluminum is a well known structural material. It would have been obvious to modify the material of the metal rail and side wall and roof panel outer skins to be aluminum when a strong yet lightweight material is desired in order to reduce weight.

Claims 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonallack in view of Jorger.

Bonallack discloses a top rail 23 for an insulated double-skinned freight container having foam insulation between the skins, the top rail has a first vertically oriented web portion attached to the sidewall, a second curved web portion, a third horizontally oriented web portion attached to the roof, and two return portions, one attached to the first web portion and one attached to the third web portion. Bonallack discloses the invention except for the first and second obtuse angles. Jorger teaches top rail 1 with first, second and third web portions and with first and second obtuse angles. It would have been obvious to add the first and second obtuse angles as a matter of design choice as motivated by the reinforcing effect the angled portions has on the structure of the top rail to resist impact from adjacent containers or other objects as the freight container is moved.

Claims 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over [Jorger in view of Mader, Teeter and Bonallack] and [Bonallack in view of Jorger] as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of Handcock (British reference No. 2,180,802).

The combinations disclose the invention except for the location of the further web portion (second return portion) as being in proximity to the second web portion. Handcock discloses a first web portion (14), a second web portion 15 and a third web portion 16 wherein a further web portion (17) or second return portion is located on the first web portion in proximity to the second web portion. It would have been obvious to move the further web portion to closer proximity to the second web portion to provide support to the top rail at a position close to the

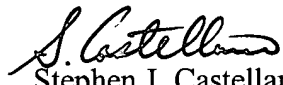
Art Unit: 3727

first obtuse angle as this area is more susceptible to impact from the side and is more in need of reinforcement and reinforcing support.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Castellano whose telephone number is 703-308-1035. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W. Young can be reached on 703-308-2572. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.


Stephen J. Castellano
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3727

sjc